

## HEADQUARTERS AWARD CEREMONY

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September 25, 1974

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(Precisely at 11 a. m., Edwin C. Kilgore, master of ceremonies, approaches the microphone, says a few words of greeting and welcome to the audience, and then introduces Dr. Fletcher)

DR. FLETCHER: It gives me personal satisfaction to have a part in this first award ceremony that is strictly a Headquarters affair. I have always considered it highly important to recognize and encourage individual initiative, especially in any large undertaking such as the space program, and that is what we are trying to do with this awards presentation today.

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As Ed Kilgore has noted, we have failed, largely through oversight, to pay proper attention to achievements of the Headquarters personnel. Hopefully, this ceremony will initiate a process to correct that omission and establish a meaningful honorary awards tradition here in our central offices.

In recognizing the achievements of today's award recipients, we are taking notice of the many diverse individuals and activities here at Headquarters. Reaching back in our memory, we can recap the significant activities of this past year and recognize some of the many varied and unique events that take place on the Headquarters calendar.

Let's go back to July 1973. At that time we had just recovered from the anomalies that developed in Skylab I. Continuing the program, the crew of Skylab II had performed their varied space activities most successfully, and the Office of Manned Space Flight, while busily preparing for the launch of Skylab III, was carrying forward its work on the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, Space Shuttle, and Spacelab.

A variety of programs were in progress in the Office of Space Science. Pioneer 10 was launched and had completed more than half of its long journey to Jupiter, while Pioneer 11 was being readied for launch. Mariner spacecraft was prepared to take off for Venus and Mercury. Preparations were in progress to land an automated spacecraft on Mars in 1976, our Bicentennial Year. And plans were being made to study the comet Kohoutek when it made its closest approach to the solar system last winter.

Obviously, we have come a long way in some of these areas. Skylab III was a tremendous success, resulting in man's longest stay in space. Pioneer 10 gave us the best pictures of Jupiter we've ever had and substantially increased our knowledge of that planet. ERTS-1 is still in orbit around Earth and still sending back pictures. NASA's energy program has been enlarged. The Office of Energy Programs has been established.

So far, I have been talking only about the past year's activities of the Headquarters Program Offices. Obviously, a great deal has taken place in the other Headquarters offices as well.

The Headquarters reorganization this year was a progressive step. I would say we are better set up now to function as an overall agency than we ever have been.

Our budget hearings and reviews and our legislative hearings have continued to attract a cooperative attitude from the Congress and a favorable sentiment from the public. We have tried to be conservative and reasonable in our requests and, at the same time, have planned for the future with a progressive outlook, confident that we can produce if given the support we need.

In another advance we have taken great strides in meeting our internal EEO objectives here at Headquarters. As of August 31st of this year we had already exceeded our Headquarters internal targets in the two major categories of minority professional placement and female professional placement, and we were well on schedule to meeting our target in the third category of minority non-professional placement. Perhaps the impact of this effort takes on more meaning when we

realize that on January 1, 1974 Headquarter's minority population was 14.3% of the total population , but as of August 1, 1974, the minority population had increased to 16.2% of the total headquarters population. That is almost a 2.0% increase in eight months time. Obviously, I am pleased with our accomplishments in meeting these goals and objectives, but we must continue the intensity of our efforts in this area. I can assure you that minority and female placement at Headquarters as well as throughout the agency will continue to remain a high priority item in the future.

In total, all of our functional staff offices have grown in their capacity to serve the agency and to carry out fully their assignments and responsibilities. We can be proud of them and can look on them with confidence. We are functioning as a sound agency.

I have reviewed these activities to give you an idea as to why we are holding this ceremony today and why we want to recognize and praise those who have been selected to receive these awards. In an agency such as NASA, an important and certainly a forward-looking part of our government, we are sometimes prone to think only of those at the top of a program and to overlook the individuals actually involved in getting the work done. These latter, however, when their efforts are linked together, comprise a conspicuous part of the space picture. For us to succeed, each employee must live up to his responsibility, no matter how much out of the limelight he or she may be. We hope this spirit will be encouraged by the award ceremonies we thus are initiating.

Another such ceremony will be held next spring. The recipients then, as is the case today, will be those you have nominated and the Incentive Awards Committee has found deserving. I hope you will maintain your interest in seeing that recognition is accorded those who deserve it.

Now, in presenting the awards we already have settled on, I will ask Dr. Low to join me in congratulating the recipients and James Kukowski to read the citations.

(Dr. Low stands beside Dr. Fletcher and shakes hands with each recipient after he has received his award.)

DR. FLETCHER: We have four classes of awards to be presented this morning. The first of these is the Exceptional Performance Award, given in recognition of demonstrated individual initiative in effecting an outstanding accomplishment in support of NASA's scientific, engineering, technical, or administrative activities at Headquarters. We have 13 of these. They will be presented in alphabetical order.

READER: The first is for William O. Armstrong, etc.

(After the last award has been presented and as  
Dr. Fletcher and Dr. Low resume their seats,  
Kilgore steps to microphone and asks Bill Schneider  
to make a few remarks. )

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(When Schneider has completed his remarks,  
Kilgore returns to the mike and closes ceremony. )